

MINUTES

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: October 19, 2016

Date of Approval: November 16, 2016

Call to Order: A meeting of the Haines Borough Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee was held in the library conference room on Wednesday, October 19, 2016; Richard Chapell presiding.

Members in Attendance: Rich Chapell, George Figdor, Meredith Pochardt, Patty Peters, Burl Sheldon, Lori Smith, Al Giddings and Ron Jackson.

Members Not in Attendance: Thom Ely

Others in Attendance: Carol Tuynman, Don Turner Jr., John Stang from the Chilkat Valley News, Travis Russell, Alekka Fullerton (Deputy Clerk for the Borough) and several others.

Approval of Minutes: Absent objection, the minutes of the September 21, 2016 meeting were approved unanimously.

Guest Speaker, Travis Russell: Travis Russell presented on the grant proposal he is writing for the rehabilitation of the Seduction Point trails. One of the goals is to make the trails more accessible. This is a shovel ready project. Travis would like to have a letter of support from the committee to show that the community is supportive of the project. Meredith moved that PRAC should give Travis a letter of support for the Seduction Point Trails by his deadline of November 1, 2016. Burl seconded the motion. Meredith will draft it and send it around by email. Motion passed unanimously.

Mosquito Lake Outhouse: Discussion was had regarding the desirability of an outhouse at Mosquito Lake. Travis stated that he agrees that it would be a good idea but that it is not supported by the State administration. Passive management is current status of the Mosquito Lake area and not the active management needed for an outhouse. The State does not want to manage it or maintain it. Travis would personally like to see an outhouse and the dock fixed—but it is not supported. Further ideas about ways to fund an outhouse WITHOUT the state managing it or maintaining it were discussed. Travis is willing to ask about an RFP (Request for Proposals) to have a private contractor bid on it. He will look into it more. Travis' thoughts were that an official RFP is a huge process and we would need to put out competitive bid requests, etc. Discussion was broached about either ADF&G funding it, or community members themselves, or even the Borough. George commented that if we pursue an outhouse, we should also put in bear-proof garbage cans. Travis will find out more about it and email Rich.

Reflective Trail Markers: Travis indicates that he has about 4,000 reflective trail markers. They are very helpful for search and rescue efforts. Travis will look at putting them out in the Spring. A priority will be the south Battery Point part of the Mt. Riley trail. There have been a lot of lost people there. Anyone who wants to take trail markers when they go are welcome to. There are also signs missing. George will work on getting pictures of the original signs so that they can be replicated.

Battery Point Trail: The trail looks great! The community response is overwhelmingly positive. Dallas,

especially, did a great job getting that done.

Comprehensive Review: Holly has provided 10 pages of information. A work meeting was scheduled for Monday, October 24 at 5:00pm at the library to complete this item. Alekka will do the public notice.

Carr's Cove: The workshop was successful. Families have lived and fished here for years. It is a historic picnic spot. It is a beautiful sport accessed by beach front along Mud Bay Road. Since it is not a lengthy trail, Burl reported that he thought it would be a nice picnic spot with a fire ring. It would be relatively easy to make it wheelchair accessible. It is currently being used as a palette fire area and there is a lot of trash around. There was historic discussion about how the Women's group in the 1990s was supposed to be maintaining it. Not sure what has happened to that or if the "agreement" was ever formalized. Fire hazard is the current concern since there are Birch forest areas nearby. A fire ring would be good. A small fire limited by a fire ring (to limit the size and scope of fires) would not require a permit. A work party was proposed for Saturday October 29 at Carr's Cove to get it cleaned up. After clean up, the next step toward improvement would be the official designation of the area as a park. It has currently been set aside by the Borough for recreation. We will need to advertise the clean-up day/work party. Saturday morning, October 29 at 10:00 a.m. John Stang from CVN was present.

Planning Commission: The subcommittee of the Planning Commission has drafted a proposed ordinance to designate parks in the Borough Code. Rob Goldberg, Heather Lende, Ron Jackson and Burl Sheldon drafted an ordinance which will go before the Assembly. The proposed ordinance defines both a "park" as well as "camping". It designates current recreational areas as Parks. It prohibits Camping except special events with Manager approval (it does not include Ft. Seward or the fairgrounds). Fires are proscribed and no cutting trees either alive or dead. Special events for allowed camping is anticipated to be Beerfest, during the State Fair and the bike race. Concern was expressed over the process to obtain "Manager Approval" every year. Next the proposed ordinance will go to the Planning Commission, then the assembly.

Report from Waterfront Aesthetics workshop: There will be a set of 4 public meetings regarding the Portage Cove Interpretive trail to give the design firm feedback needed to come up with a good design. [The first meeting will be held Tuesday, November 1, 2016 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm at the library]. There was a design exercise about concerns with the waterfront. The feeling was that it was a great meeting and that the Borough is trying to engage the public. At the meeting, Brad Ryan also mentioned that there may be federal money for a safety corridor out to the Battery Point trailhead, potentially from Federal highways funds.

Next Meeting: November 16, 2016 at 5:00 p.m at the library.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 pm..

Alekka Fullerton, Deputy Clerk